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Kerry says Mideast peace talks to resume



John Kerry met with Mahmud Abbas in Ramallah

AMMAN (AFP) - US Secretary of State John Kerry said Friday Israeli and Palestinian negotiators will meet in Washington within "the next week or so" after an agreement on the basis to resume peace talks.

The announcement came after he spent four days consulting the Israeli and Palestinian leadership -- and a last-minute helicopter dash to Ramallah in the West Bank.

"I'm pleased to announce that we've reached an agreement that establishes a basis for resuming final status negotiations between the Palestinians and the Israelis," Kerry told reporters in Amman, Jordan.

"This is a significant and welcome step forward. The

agreement is still in the process of being finalised so we are absolutely not going to talk about any of the elements now."

A US State Department official said: "They have agreed on the core elements that will allow direct talks to begin."

Kerry said Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erakat and his Israeli counterpart Tzipi Livni would meet him in Washington "to begin initial talks within the next week or so".

The announcement came at the end of four days of intense diplomacy by the secretary of state as he consulted Israeli and Palestinian leaders from his base in the Jordanian capital.

Department of Labor: Free time off from work to vote on Election Day

The Department of Labor & Investigation has issued a bulletin providing information regarding time off from work for voting on Election Day. Article 39 of the Election Ordinance says that voting commence at 8 a.m. in the morning until 7 p.m. in the evening.

Article 40 of the Election Ordinance:

1. All employers are obliged to ensure that every employee who has the right to vote, has as is stipulated in article 39, at least 4 consecutive hours free, during his regular working hours, in order to exercise his right to vote, unless the employee already has four hours off based on another situation.

2. The employer is obliged to ensure that, at least one week before Election Day,

the employee is informed of the free hours to be allotted to him to vote.

Interpretation:

The essence of Article 40, paragraph 1 of the Election Ordinance is that the employer is obliged to ensure that within his company all employees with the right to vote, are afforded the opportunity to cast their vote on September 27 and get at least 4 consecutive hours of free time during the hours that the voting booths are open between 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. to do so.

Exception:

The employee who is already free from work during the hours that the voting booths are open (for example, an employee who works part time only or who works a very early or late shift, does not qualify for the 4 consecutive

hours off from work.

The law provides the following examples for clarification:

* a voter who works i.e. from 7:30 a.m. to 12 midday and from 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. must get hours off from 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. or from 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

* a voter who works part time i.e. from 8 a.m. to 12 midday does not qualify for the free hours.

* a voter who works shift i.e. from 7 a.m. in the morning to 3 p.m. in the afternoon does not get the hours off. This is also true for the voter who i.e. works shift from 12:00 midday to 8 p.m., or from 3 p.m. in the afternoon to 11 p.m. in the evening.

Director of the Department of Labor & Investigation mr. drs. F.R. Kock.

Aruba say's "Thank You"



Recently Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a group of loyal and friendly visitors to the island. The honorees were: Mr. Armando y Mrs. Velieda Marcano de Eman residents of Miranda Venezuela who has as 22 years coming to the island; Mr. Abbot and Mrs. Roxanne Reff residing from New Jersey with 20 years visiting Aruba consecutively; Mr. Juan A. and Mr. Isabel Cains residents of Pembroke Pines Florida for 22 years. The honorees are members of Paradise Beach Villas and have been enjoying the island every year. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10 to 20 years consecutively. The main reasons why they keep coming back to Aruba are the friendly people, the beautiful beaches, the great weather, and the variation in local food. The Certificate was presented by Ms. Darline S. de Cuba representing Aruba Tourism Authority, and Mrs. Milca Erasmus Human Resources Manager at Paradise Beach Villas.

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Florida governor won't seek gun law rollback

MIAMI (AFP) - Florida's governor said he will not seek to roll back his state's controversial gun laws, following the acquittal of a volunteer watchman who shot to death an unarmed black teen.

Governor Rick Scott, who met Thursday with protesters occupying the state capitol building, said in a statement

that he opposes efforts to repeal Florida's "Stand Your Ground" law and other measures allowing residents to use lethal force to defend themselves.

Scott rebuffed the request of demonstrators asking that he work to overturn the laws in Florida's legislature.

"Tonight, the protesters

again asked that I call a special session of the legislature to repeal Florida's "Stand Your Ground" law," Scott said in a statement late Thursday.

"I told them that I agree with the Task Force on Citizen Safety and Protection, which concurred with the law," Scott said.

Bonaire Governor Emerencia dismissed!



KRALENDIJK - Bonaire Governor Lydia Emerencia was dismissed. The Netherlands concluded Emerencia is very much affected by the governance crisis of the island.

On Thursday, July 18, Dutch Prime Minister Rutte

visited the Caribbean island which is an overseas Dutch territory.

According to sources Emerencia is instigating the population with her unsettling political philosophy.

She has come into conflict with the Executive Council.

Reminder to pick-up our passport of ID

ORANJESTAD - The Bureau of Census and Civil Registration reminds everyone who has applied for a passport or ID card up until the date of July 12, 2013, to please pass at the census office to pick-up their documents.

The census office is open from Monday to Friday, from 7:30 to 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 to 3:30 p.m.

The Bureau of Census and Civil Registration also reminds everyone that, in the month of July, its office is open on Saturday, from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.





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Havenstraat closed this Sunday!

ORANJESTAD – The Department of Public Works – DOW – announces to all motorists that this Sunday, July 21, the Havenstraat will be closed from 6:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

The closure is to clean-up of the sewage system.

There will be barricades and traffic signs to alert motorists.

DOW asks for everyone's understanding and apologizes for any inconvenience this may cause.

US senators urge new G20 venue if Russia shelters Snowden

WASHINGTON (AFP) – Two US senators introduced a resolution Friday seeking a change of location for September's G20 summit in St. Petersburg if Moscow allows intelligence leaker Edward Snowden to remain in Russia.

The resolution by Republican Lindsey Graham and Democrat Chuck Schumer urges Russia to turn Snowden over to the United States so he can face espionage charges.

It also calls on President Barack Obama to recommend a new host city for the summit of the G20 group of emerging and advanced nations if Moscow fails to act.

"On multiple fronts, Russia is becoming one of the bad actors in the world," Graham said in a statement, citing Russia's "cover to the Iranian nuclear program" and its sale of weapons to Syria.

Brazil post office issues pope stamp ahead of visit



BRASÍLIA (AFP) – Brazil's post office is to issue a stamp in honor of Pope Francis, who is due in Rio on Monday to attend a week-long Catholic youth fest.

The stamp will begin circulating Tuesday after the inaugural mass of World Youth Day (WYD) on Rio's famed Copacabana beach, the post office said.

The stamp features the green and yellow colors of the Brazilian flag and shows a picture of the pontiff offering a blessing against a background of Rio's iconic Sugar

Loaf mountain and Christ the Redeemer statue.

"WYD Rio 2013: Pope's visit to Brazil," says the caption of the stamp valued at 1.80 reais (80 US cents).

In total, 1.2 million stamps will be made for sale via the Internet, post offices or other sales outlets.

Some 1.5 million young pilgrims, including 350,000 from abroad, are expected to attend WYD, which will be held for the second time in Latin America, after Buenos Aires in 1987.



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Edwin Tromp installed as new president Lions Club inaugurates its 2013-2014 Board of directors



Board of Directors Aruba Lions Club 2013-2014



Outgoing President Randolph Vrolijk congratulates Lion of the Year Igor Croes (L)

ORANJESTAD – Recently, during an official ceremony the Aruba Lions Club inaugurated its new Board of Directors who will manage the club's services for the Lion's year 2013-2014. The cere-

mony took place in the Ballroom of the Radisson Resort. Also present were invited guests from Lions Club Curaçao and Bonaire and other service clubs.

The board of Directors

comprise of President - Edwin Tromp, Secretary Orlando Quandt, Treasurer Roccini Anthony, 1st Vice President Oscar Britten, 2nd Vice President Theo Kock, 3rd Vice President Ronny Nicolaas, Immediate Past President Randolph Vrolijk, "Lion Tamer" George Simon, "Tail Twister" Francis Leo, "Director Membership" Omar Tromp, "Director 2 years" Kenneth Bikker, "Director 2 years" Franky Kuiperi, "Director 1 year" Patrick Paskel, "Director 1 year" Kenneth Luidens. During the ceremony the club also installed Ronald Lacle as Leo Advisor.

The club's outgoing board for the year 2012-2013 gave special honor to Igor Croes as "Lion of the Year" for his "Smile Mobile" project. Every day, but especially in the



Edwin Tromp, President
Aruba Lions Club 2013-2014

weekend, Mr. Croes would visit senior citizens in the different nursing homes on our island and help them with their denture.

Also recognized was the committee in charge with the distribution of wheelchairs in the community, as "Committee of the Year" and Oscar Britten for his tireless contribution to the committee.

Rubia Maduro and Reina Geerman were named "Lionesses of the year."

Lions Clubs International, a service membership organization of 1,368,683 members world-wide, was founded in the United States on June 7, 1917. The organization aims to meet the needs of communities on a local and global scale. The organization support the compassionate humanitarian service of 1.35 million Lions in 208 countries and geographic areas by pro-

viding grant funding and developing programs that improve lives around the world. The Lions motto is "We Serve." Focal Lions Club programs include sight conservation, hearing and speech conservation, diabetes awareness, youth outreach, international relations, environmental issues, and other program.

Aruba Lions Club was founded 65 years ago. The service club is renowned for its active contribution with different community projects. The club has 63 members and it resorts under District E1, that covert the regional area of Aruba, Bonaire and Curaçao and the Venezuelan states of Falcon, Zulia, Trujillo, Merida, Tachira and the east cone of Apure.

Aruba Lions Club yearly raises a large sum of money through its fundraisers. The money is given back to the community through donations to different organizations and other bodies in need.

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Obama: 'Trayvon Martin could have been me, 35 years ago'

WASHINGTON (AFP) - President Barack Obama offered a very personal take on the death of Trayvon Martin Friday, saying that 35 years ago, he could have been the unarmed black teen shot dead by a neighborhood watchman.

In a surprise appearance before reporters, Obama hailed the "incredible grace and dignity" of Martin's parents and warned that a resort to violence in the wake of the Florida court verdict would "dishonor" his death.

He also called for a review of controversial "stand your ground" laws like the one in place in Florida, which assert that citizens can use lethal force -- rather than retreat -- if they sense their lives are at risk.

"When Trayvon Martin was first shot, I said that this could have been my son," Obama said, in his first substantive comments on a verdict that has aroused an impassioned debate on US race relations.

"Another way of saying that is Trayvon Martin could have been me 35 years ago."

While he refrained from direct comment on the jury's decision to acquit neighborhood watch volunteer George Zimmerman on Saturday, Obama weighed in on the larger issues of race raised by the case.

"I just ask people to consider if Trayvon Martin was of age and armed, could he have stood his ground on that sidewalk?" Obama asked.

"And do we actually think that he would have been justified in shooting Mr Zimmerman who had followed him in a car because he felt threatened?"

"And if the answer to that question is at least ambiguous, then it seems to me that we might want to examine those kinds of laws," he said.

The teen's parents Tracy Martin and Sybrina Fulton said they were "deeply honored and moved" by Obama's comments.

"President Obama sees himself in Trayvon and identifies with him. This is a beautiful tribute to our boy," they said in a statement.

"We seek a future when a child can walk down the street and not worry that others see him as dangerous because of the color of his skin or the clothes on his back."

Civil rights rallies were scheduled in cities across the country on Saturday in the wake of the Zimmerman verdict, with Fulton due to appear in New York and Tracy Martin expected to speak in Miami.

In Congress, meanwhile, Democratic Senator Dick

Durbin said he would hold hearings on the US gun lobby's role in promoting "stand your ground" laws in 30 US states.

Martin, 17, was fatally shot on the rainy night of February 26, 2012 during an altercation with the 29-year-old Zimmerman in a gated community in Sanford, Florida.

Zimmerman said he acted in self-defense and his team did not specifically invoke the "stand your ground" law in its arguments.

A jury of six women, all but

one white, cleared him of second-degree murder and manslaughter charges.

Critics of Saturday's verdict argue that Zimmerman racially profiled the youth -- who had no criminal record -- and was able to kill him with impunity because of a biased criminal justice system.

But Zimmerman -- who has a white father and a Peruvian mother -- has insisted race was not a factor in the incident.

Obama urged better training of law enforcement at the

state and local levels "to reduce the kind of mistrust in the system that sometimes currently exists."

He said young African American males needed greater encouragement in the face of negative stereotypes that many blacks believe were at the root of the shooting death.

"There are very few African American men in this country who haven't had the experience of being followed when they were shopping in a de-

partment store. That includes me," he said.

"That happens to me -- at least before I was a senator."

"And I don't want to exaggerate this, but those sets of experiences inform how the African American community interprets what happened one night in Florida," he said.

Calling for "some soul searching" on race, Obama urged that it be pursued in families, churches and workplaces rather than by politicians.

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Kerry talked to Venezuela about Snowden: US

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The United States denied Friday that Secretary of State John Kerry threatened Venezuela with reprisals if it gave asylum to US intelligence leaker Edward Snowden.

Venezuela is one of a handful of Latin American countries that has offered refuge to the fugitive former government contractor, who has asked for temporary asylum in Moscow.

State Department spokeswoman Marie Harf confirmed that Kerry spoke about Snowden by telephone on July 12 with Venezuelan Foreign Minister Elias Jaua.

But she denied as "completely false" a report in the Spanish newspaper ABC that Kerry had threatened to suspend sales of gasoline or oil

products to Caracas if it granted Snowden asylum.

"The secretary made no reference in his conversation with Foreign Minister Jaua as to what our response would be if Venezuela were to assist Mr. Snowden or receive him," she said, reading from a statement.

"Instead, Secretary Kerry conveyed to the Foreign Minister that Mr. Snowden is accused of serious criminal offenses and should be returned to the United States to face those charges if he were to come into Venezuelan jurisdiction."

"Should Venezuela assist Mr Snowden or receive him, we will consider what the appropriate response should be at that time," she said.

Copy of Schindler's list up for sale on eBay for \$3 mn

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - An original copy of the list of Jews Oskar Schindler saved from the Holocaust is up for sale on eBay, with the starting bid set at \$3 million dollars, a Los Angeles auctioneer said Friday.

The 14-page typewritten list, bearing the names of 801 men, originated with the German industrialist's right-hand man Itzhak Stern, Gary Zimet of moments-intime.com told AFP.

"Stern's nephew (in Israel) sold it roughly three years ago to the current owner, who bought it as an investment," said Zimet, who declined to give details about the seller.

He added: "I don't anticipate any bidders until the last day -- or probably the last five or 10 minutes."

Zimet and his partner Eric Gazin, who listed the docu-

ment on his gazauctions eBay page, opted to use the popular Internet auction site because of its global reach.

"This exceedingly rare original Schindler's List is the only one ever on the market," the eBay listing states. Others are in museums in Israel and the United States.

The auction is set to end on July 28 at 6:00 pm Los Angeles time (July 29 0100 GMT). Interested bidders are asked to provide information so they can be pre-screened.

Schindler is credited with saving the lives of some 1,200 Jews employed in his factories during World War II. He died in anonymity in Germany in 1974 at the age of 66.

His story was the focal point of film director Steven Spielberg's Oscar-winning epic "Schindler's List" in 1993.

Firefighters caused death of Asiana crash victim: coroner

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - One of the victims of this month's Asiana Airlines jet crash in San Francisco survived impact but was killed on the tarmac when she was run over by an emergency vehicle, officials said Friday.

Results of the autopsy on 16-year-old Chinese student Ye Mengyuan, one of three people killed in the July 6 disaster, had been keenly awaited after firefighters admitted a tarmac accident was possible.

The girl, who was "alive at the time," died due to "multiple blunt injuries that are

consistent with being run over by a motor vehicle," San Mateo county coroner Robert Foucault told reporters.

San Francisco fire chief Joanne Hayes-White offered her "condolences and apologies to the family... in light of the coroner's findings in this tragic accident."

"Obviously this is very difficult news for us -- we're heartbroken," Hayes-White said. "We're in the business of saving lives."

The city fire chief said the entire emergency operation was still under review.



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Zetas leader taken to maximum security prison

MEXICO CITY (AFP) - The leader of the brutal Zetas drug cartel was transferred to a maximum security prison on Friday, four days after Mexican marines nabbed him in the north of the country, an official said.

Miguel Angel Trevino, alias "Z-40," had been held in a facility of the federal attorney general's office in Mexico City since his capture last Monday.

The official from the attorney general's office, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Trevino was taken to one of the country's four top security prisons, but he added that the exact location was confidential.

After Trevino's arrest near

the northeastern city of Nuevo Laredo, the interior ministry accused the Zetas kingpin of drug trafficking, organized crime, murder, torture and money laundering.

When marines stopped his pick-up truck and detained him with two associates before dawn on a dirt road, they found \$2 million and eight unspecified heavy weapons.

Trevino took over the Zetas last year after his predecessor, Heriberto Lazcano, was killed by troops in a gunfight.

His capture was a big victory for the government of President Enrique Pena Nieto, which has pledged to reduce violence after more than 70,000 drug-related murders since 2006.

Tens of thousands of Morsi supporters rally in Egypt

CAIRO (AFP) - Tens of thousands of Islamists poured onto Egypt's streets on Friday demanding the reinstatement of ousted president Mohamed Morsi, despite warnings by the military of a crackdown on violent protests.

The rallies come a day after Morsi's army-installed successor Adly Mansour vowed to fight for stability against opponents he accused of wanting to plunge the crisis-hit country "into the unknown".

About 10,000 protesters then set off in the direction of an elite military compound, scene of the deadliest violence since Morsi's overthrow, carrying pictures of the deposed president and chanting slogans.

International News

US, Cuba in migration talks despite N. Korea weapons

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The United States and Cuba held migration talks this week, despite news that Panama had impounded a North Korean freighter carrying Cuban missile equipment.

The State Department said the discussions in Washington, the first such talks in over two years, were being held as scheduled.

The talks are technical in nature, and include matters such as how visas for immigrants are processed for people from Cuba, the Americas' only communist-ruled nation.

The United States grants Cubans immigrant visas.

But it also grants every Cuban who reaches US soil permanent residency and the ability to work, something the United States does not do for nationals of any other country.

Cuba is against this, saying it encourages dangerous illegal migration attempts in the shark-infested Florida Straits. The discovery of Cuban weaponry on a North Korean ship trying to enter the Panama Canal should have prompted the United States to scrap the migration talks, said Republican congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen.

Cuba has said the weapons on board the ship were obsolete missiles and spare parts from the mid-twentieth century which were being sent to North Korea for repairs.

But diplomats said that the shipment may have violated tough UN sanctions on Pyongyang aimed at curbing its nuclear weapons program.

The United States and Cuba have been at odds for more than a half century and do not maintain full diplomatic ties.



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Pope sets up body to overhaul Vatican

VATICAN CITY (AFP) - Pope Francis set up a special commission of lay experts on Friday tasked with overhauling the economic and administrative structure of the Vatican in a radical bid to streamline and clean up the scandal-hit institution.

The commission will delve into the workings of the Vatican's bloated departments and

draft reforms to tackle instances of favouritism or corruption, as well as simplify procedures, improve transparency and put economic resources to better use.

The Argentine pope has worked fast since his election in March to establish a series of specialist bodies to tackle corruption and poor management in the Vatican.

This latest commission, which will report directly to him, comes on the heels of the establishment of a separate body looking at how to reform the Vatican bank and the appointment of eight cardinal advisors.

The new specialists come from France, Germany, Italy, Malta, Singapore and Spain.

Francis was elected in the

wake of a damaging scandal last year in which papers leaked by the then papal butler alleged corruption in the administration, with tales of bribery and personal favours as well as accusations of money laundering.

Francis's reforms appear to have their roots in the leaks scandal, which created unease and exasperation among the

cardinals.

The electors called on the Argentinian swiftly to clean up an institution dogged by bad governance and corruption but Francis has yet to shake up the heavily criticised Curia -- the intrigue-filled administration of the Catholic Church -- which he temporarily re-appointed en masse after his election.



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Health & Living

Thyroid cancer risk for 2,000 Fukushima workers: **TEPCO**

TOKYO (AFP) - Around 2,000 people who have worked at Japan's wrecked Fukushima nuclear plant face a heightened risk of thyroid cancer, its operator said Friday.

Tokyo Electric Power (TEPCO) said 1,973 people -- around 10 percent of those employed in emergency crews involved in the clean-up since the meltdowns -- were believed to have been exposed to enough radiation to cause potential problems.

Each worker in this group was exposed to at least 100 millisieverts of radiation, projections show.

Although little is known about the exact health effects of radiation on the human body, the level is considered by doctors to be a possible

threshold for increased cancer risk.

The Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant became the site of the worst nuclear disaster in a generation after the massive tsunami of March 2011 destroyed its cooling systems.

The plant's reactors went through meltdowns that caused explosions in the buildings housing them, spewing radioactive materials into the air, sea and soil.

All 1,973 workers now deemed to be at increased risk of thyroid cancer are eligible for an annual thyroid checkup and other health services paid for by the company.

TEPCO has already informed those affected about the health and monitoring programmes.

20 more students ill after school lunch in India

PANAJI (AFP) - Twenty children were hospitalised Friday after they ate lunch at school in the state of Goa, days after 23 pupils died after eating food cooked in an eastern Indian school.

Police said the incident was reported in a privately-run school in the village of Usgao, 40 kilometres (29 miles) from Panaji, capital of the western Indian state.

Officials said the students were rushed to a state-run hospital after they ate what is known in India as 'midday meals' in school and fell ill.

They were later released after first-aid, they said.

Goa education department director Anil Powar told AFP an inquiry was under way into the reported mass-poisoning in St Joseph High School.

Twenty-three children between four and 12 died and scores more were taken ill on Tuesday after eating lunch



served at their school in the eastern Bihar state.

Grieving parents attacked the Bihar headteacher's house on Friday in protest over the deaths and the response by officials to the tragedy.

Officials said Thursday it appeared from post mortem results that the food was contaminated with a pesticide.

Free lunches are hugely popular with poor families and educators see the meals as a way of increasing school at-

tendance across India.

The midday meal scheme has been in place for decades, but children often suffer from food poisoning due to poor hygiene in school kitchens and the sometimes sub-standard quality of the food.

The price of food has soared in India over the last six years, causing increased hardship for the 455 million people estimated by the World Bank to live below the poverty line.



JORDAN, ZAATARI REFUGEE CAMP (AFP) : An aerial view shows the Zaatari refugee camp on Friday near the Jordanian city of Mafraq, some 8 kilometers from the Jordanian-Syrian border. The northern Jordanian Zaatari refugee camp is home to about 115,000 Syrians.

Avoiding estrogen may be deadly

-- Hormone replacement therapy has been a controversial issue for a lot of women over the last decade. Many have rejected any type of hormone therapy since a large, federally funded study found hormone replacement therapy could increase a woman's risks for heart disease and strokes.

Doctors believe that misconceptions about the risks of estrogen therapy have led to the premature deaths of nearly 50,000 women in the past 10 years, the Los Angeles Times reported.

Now, in a study published in the American Journal of Public Health, researchers are arguing that misconceptions about hormonal treatments also led women to reject estrogen-only treatments, which have numerous health benefits including reduced mortality and lower incidences of breast cancer and heart disease.

Hormone therapy is used to help treat symptoms such as hot flashes, and to prevent conditions such as osteoporosis and heart disease brought on by a hormone deficiency caused by menopause.

The researchers said that women who have had hysterectomy should reconsider benefits of estrogen therapy.

The optimal time for a woman to take hormone therapy is within 10 years of menopause, said Dr. Holly Thacker, director of Center for Specialized Women's Health at the Cleveland Clinic.



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Palace that may have been home to King David unearthed



In a joint excavation between Hebrew University in Jerusalem and the Israel Antiquities Authority, archeologists say they found King David's palace and a royal storehouse in Khirbet Qeiyafa, southwest of Jerusalem. The two structures are believed to be the largest structures uncovered from the Kingdom of Judea in the 10th century B.C., Haaretz reports.

"The ruins are the best example to date of the uncovered fortress city of King David," professors Yossi Garfinkel of Hebrew University and Saar Ganor, who led the excavations, said. "This is indisputable proof of the existence of a central authority in Judah during the time of King David."

The southern part of the palace extended across an area of 10,800 square feet with an enclosing wall that was about 100 feet long. The palace's perimeter had rooms where pottery vessels and imported alabaster fragments were found, Garfinkel and Ganor said in their findings.

The excavation was seven years in the making. Archaeologists believe the site was most likely destroyed in a battle against the Philistines in 980 B.C. Khirbet Qeiyafa, a site uncovered in 2007, used to be an ancient fortress and one of the earliest Judean cities. Besides being a well-planned, fortified city, it also may be the place where the infamous battle between David and Goliath took place, the Jerusalem Post reports.

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Coalition seeks release of surveillance data

WASHINGTON (AFP) - A coalition of Internet firms and activist organizations asked the US government Thursday to issue "transparency reports" on its online and phone data collection programs which have sparked an outcry.

Revelations last month about the so-called PRISM programs, which scoop up massive amounts of Internet and phone records to help thwart terrorist attacks, sparked a spate of protests and lawsuits claiming a violation of privacy and constitutional rights.

The groups released an open letter Thursday backed by major companies like Apple, Facebook, Google, Microsoft and Twitter, dozens of other

companies and organizations. It was sent to President Barack Obama, his head of national intelligence and key members of Congress.

Also endorsing the effort were venture capital firms investing in the tech sector including Union Square Ventures and Y Combinator, nonprofits like the Reporters Committee for Freedom of The Press and the Wikimedia Foundation, and trade groups including the Computer & Communications Industry Association.

The letter asked the US government to "ensure that those companies who are entrusted with the privacy and security of their users' data are allowed to regularly report statistics"

on the number of government requests under these programs.

This information about how and how often the government is using these legal authorities is important to the American people, who are entitled to have an informed public debate about the appropriateness of those authorities and their use, and to international users of US-based service providers who are concerned about the privacy and security of their communications," the letter said.

Earlier this week, 19 US organizations filed suit against the National Security Agency claiming their constitutional rights were violated by its secret data collection programs.

Wall Street hammers Microsoft after earnings miss

NEW YORK CITY (AFP) - Microsoft shares were hammered Friday after a disappointing earnings report cast doubts on the tech giant's transition to a post-PC world. Shares in the US tech giant plunged 11.4 percent to close at \$31.40.

The company announced a profit of \$4.97 billion in the past quarter, but its results were hit by a writedown linked to disappointing sales of its Surface tablet computer.

Microsoft took a \$900 million charge for "inventory adjustments" for its Surface RT, the device aimed at breaking into the tablet market, which is growing while traditional PC sales are slumping.

Microsoft has not released sales data for Surface, but analysts say the device has been disappointing.

Microsoft said that consumer PC sales were down 20 percent from a year ago, but are trying to transition the company to mobile computing.

Microsoft last week announced a sweeping reorganization of the company to "enable us to innovate with greater speed, efficiency and capability in a fast changing world."

The "far-reaching realignment" was designed to help in-

tegrate efforts around its software and devices.

But many analysts remained skeptical.

"PC sales will likely remain a headwind for the foreseeable future," said Matthew Hedberg at RBC Capital Markets.

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COMICS



PICKLES



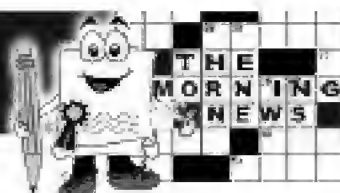
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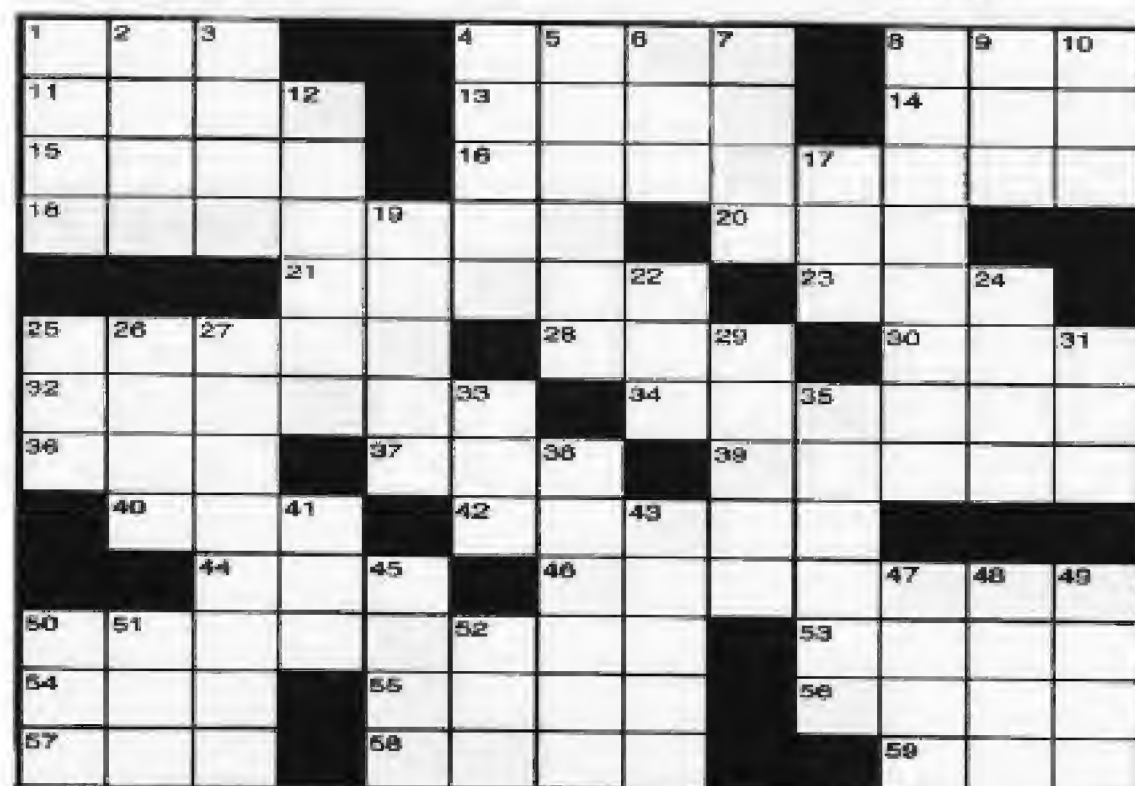
ACROSS

1. Delivery option (abbr.)
4. Recedes
8. Pea container
11. In the near future
13. Ooze
14. Portugal's cont.
15. Tunneling animal
16. Stages' locales
18. Hillary's daughter
20. Bite from a terrier
21. Mantel, for one
23. "Hush!"
25. Mexican mister
28. Gave lunch to
30. Rower's blade
32. Smoothed
34. SOS's rival in the kitchen
36. Actor Hunter
37. Champagne producer — Pérignon
39. "___ You" (Beatles song, 2 wds.)
40. Gun lobby (abbr.)
42. Yielded
44. Andrews, for one (abbr.)
46. Enjoys a book again

DOWN

50. Confused
53. Revise copy
54. Pen filler
55. Finest
56. Comedian
57. Org. that helps motorists
58. Colony insects
59. Ran across
1. Branch of the Armed Services (abbr.)
2. "Winnie-the-___"
3. Lone
4. Cosmetician
5. On ___ of (as a represen-

6. Hive inhabitant
7. Extend over
8. Crevice in a fence
9. "Flags of ___ Fathers"
10. "ER" characters
12. Charles ___ Reilly
17. Musical notes
19. Cut cabbage for slaw
22. Jan. follower
24. Physically fit
25. Hollywood backdrop
26. Writer Hunter
27. The Cornhusker State
29. More arid
31. Fisherman's need
33. Physician, informally
35. In reality
38. Slightest
41. Rearward
43. Nicks
45. All ___
47. Eve's man
48. Eat formally
49. Proofreading note
50. "Mamma ___!"
51. Actress Balin
52. Kercheval of "Dallas"



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Care Center
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Horacio Oduber Hospital
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POLICE HDQS
Telephone 100

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Sudoku



SOLUTION

2	6	8	5	2	9	1	7	4
4	5	1	8	9	7	3	6	2
9	7	9	1	2	5	8	4	3
8	2	9	7	1	5	2	9	6
9	4	8	6	9	9	6	7	1
5	1	7	2	6	8	2	9	5
7	9	2	9	2	8	1	6	8
5	8	2	8	1	2	7	9	8
1	8	6	9	7	9	2	5	2

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9



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Portugal opposition says crisis talks have failed

LISBON (AFP) - The leader of Portugal's Socialist opposition said Friday that talks to end a more than two-week political crisis sparked by feuding over austerity cuts in the bailed-out nation had failed.

Antonio Jose Seguro said the two parties in the embattled centre-right coalition government had "made it impossible" for his Socialists to join them in a pact to pursue radical reforms aimed at avoiding a second rescue, as urged by conservative President Anibal Cavaco Silva.

"Over the course of this week, we've fought for the government to put an end to its austerity policy," said Seguro, secretary general of the Socialist party.

"What's going to happen now? That's for the president to decide," he added.

He said two irreconcilable positions had emerged during the negotiations, which started Sunday, and that he had insisted on "turning a corner in Portugal because the Portuguese people can't take any more sacrifices."

He pledged to keep fighting to renegotiate the austerity cuts agreed as part of Portugal's May 2011 bailout.

Portugal is struggling with a three-year recession and record unemployment of more than

18 percent as it implements the harsh cuts promised in return for its 78-billion-euro rescue by the European Union and International Monetary Fund.

The current crisis erupted when two key ministers in the ruling coalition resigned, with disagreements over spending cuts and tax increases at the heart of the squabble.

Detroit bankruptcy casts cloud on US municipal bonds

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The city of Detroit's record bankruptcy filing has cast a cloud over the US municipal bond market as creditors face potential steep losses on the typically safe investment.

Bond holders are nervously awaiting a federal judge's decision on Detroit's request Thursday for bankruptcy protection as it seeks relief from a staggering \$18.5 billion debt.

The biggest US city bankruptcy in the nation's history was not unexpected, given decades of decaying finances in the once-mighty automotive capital known as Motor City.

The Detroit bankruptcy reorganization filing, if approved, is expected to make it harder for municipalities in Michigan and other US states to borrow money by undermining confidence in what used to be among the most trusted bonds available.

The White House says it was monitoring the situation but the Obama administration has not signaled it would throw the city a lifeline.

On Friday, ratings firm Standard & Poor's cut its rating on Detroit's general obligation (GO) debt from "CC" to "C", just one notch above default, and said the outlook was "negative."

"The negative outlook reflects our expectation that,

MOSCOW (AFP) - The OECD presented G20 nations with a bold strategy on Friday to crack down on tax avoidance by corporate giants and the super rich, and so boost overstretched national budgets.

The G20 group of emerging and advanced nations had asked the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) to come up with the action plan after agreeing earlier this year to focus on tax avoidance.

The OECD said that governments had to better align tax regulations to prevent big investors from parking huge sums in tax havens.

The plan was presented at the start of the latest meeting of G20 finance ministers and central bankers in Moscow under the Russian presidency, in the hope it will be agreed in the final communique today.

The proposal seeks to end the ability of multinational

companies to profit from tax agreements between states and ultimately pay very little or zero tax.

The main champions of the plan -- Germany, Britain, France and Russia -- want it adopted by the entire G20 and implemented within two years.

"Some big companies manage to have a three or four-per-cent tax rate worldwide," French Finance Minister Pierre Moscovici told a news conference.

"These situations are impossible to explain to our fellow citizens ... The plan is a major breakthrough," he added.

The British finance minister, Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne, said the OECD plan represented "a major step forward".

There were doubts about Moscow's commitment to the issue, given many Russian firms are registered abroad to escape tax, a practise that was

highlighted sharply by the Cyprus crisis.

But Osborne said Moscow was fully involved in the plan.

Russian Finance Minister Anton Siluanov said it was essential the measures were adopted by the entire G20.

The United States, which was also involved in drawing up the plan, welcomed a "major step" to address tax avoidance by multinational firms.

The OECD said in its plan that a proper rule system was needed as the current framework was "consensus-based" and risked being entirely undermined, especially as the digital economy becomes ever more important.

Finance ministers and central bank chiefs will now hope to make a strong and unified statement on tax avoidance in their final communique.

Actions proposed by the OECD include requiring taxpayers to disclose their aggressive tax planning arrangements to the fiscal authorities but also making dispute resolution mechanisms more effective.

Companies in the spotlight in the last months for using these legal, but controversial, methods of booking profits include US giants Google, Amazon and Starbucks.

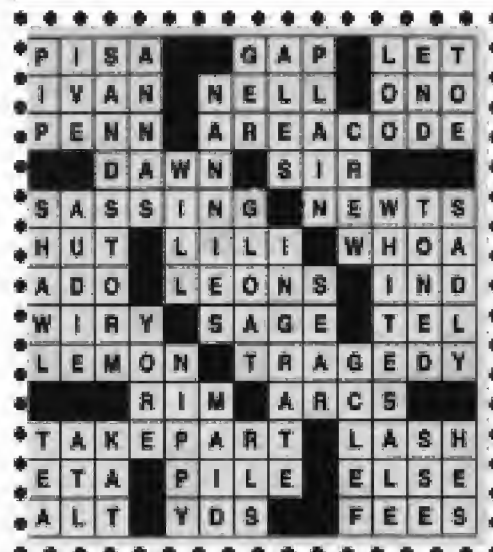
The G20 at its meeting is also set to debate the health of the global economy and how to prevent a renewed slowdown as growth in emerging markets cools.

The United States made clear that the fight against unemployment should be at the centre of the agenda with Lew calling on EU states to do more to improve demand and growth.



LAHORE (AFP) : Pakistani Muslims offer Friday prayers at mosque during the month of Ramadan in Lahore on Friday. Islam's holy month of Ramadan is calculated on the sighting of the new moon and Muslims all over the world are supposed to fast from dawn to dusk during the month.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer



Buster's is back in Eagle Beach at Trop Casino



The home of the Beer Pong drinking game

-- Fans of Aruba's favorite sports bar are happy to hear that Buster's Garage has relocated to the restaurant/bar space inside Trop Casino. Now Eagle Beach resort guests have a great place for a bargain-priced breakfast or a bucket of beer while rooting for the team of their choice.

Buster's has that great, homey feel of settling in to enjoy a game with buddies,

greatly due to the warmth and enthusiasm of owner Rusty. He takes pride in making patrons feel welcome. "If somebody really needs to watch their home team on the field, we'll be happy to put it on for them," he confidently assured us. "We have 3 satellite dishes with separate packages to pick up every station imaginable. If there is a game going on out there somewhere, we'll find it."

With giant screens everywhere throughout the joint, there isn't a bad seat in the house. Aside from their all day menu of game-watching favorites, they also feature a hearty breakfast menu. The "Grand Slam Platter" includes eggs any style, pancakes or waffles, bacon, juice, fresh made home fries with coffee or tea for only \$9. Lunch and



A whopping cheese nachos w/chicken dish



Threesome, takes care of the entertainment

dinner menus reflect the same moderate pricing with required sports bar standards such as chicken wings, club sandwiches, burgers and a heaping helping of nachos, averaging \$9; pizza and main courses range from \$11 to \$15.

Aside from the games and the gambling, patrons can expect great entertainment three nights weekly with one of Aruba's most popular trios, "Threesome." There are also

some wild times getting acquainted with Rusty's Beer Pong, the Drinking Game of Champions. Win or lose, players always end up with a smile on their face.

This family friendly place, with air hockey and video games for the kids, along with a special menu for young ones, is open 7 days a week from 7:30 AM until 1:00 AM for late night snacking and fun.

Dozens of mummies found in pre-Inca royal tomb in Peru



LIMA (AFP) - Polish and Peruvian archaeologists have discovered a royal burial chamber with 60 mummies and some 1,200 gold, silver and ceramic objects from over 1,000 years ago in Peru.

The mummies -- including three princesses -- and other items date back to a pre-Inca culture called the Wari, who peaked between the seventh and 11th centuries, researchers said.

"This is a unique find," said archaeologist Giersz Milosz of the University of Warsaw on Friday. "This is the first Peruvian discovery of a royal tomb from the Wari culture," of which little is known.

The find, in an area known as El Castillo, about 300 kilo-

33 tonnes of gravel. The tombs of the princesses -- apparently wives of Wari chiefs -- were at one end of the 17 square meter (190 square foot) chamber.

Most of the mummies were women, buried in an upright position, a sign of rank, according to the researchers.

They were adorned in silver and gold jewelry, and buried with ceramic vessels and baskets filled with more jewelry.

Archaeologist also found pots, pitchers, carved stone ob-



jects, ceremonial knives and other objects in good condition and of great cultural value, said researcher Patrycja Prządka-Giersz, wife of Giersz.

The chamber was discovered two meters (six feet) underground and covered with

Jackson's mother weeps in court, blasts critics



LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Michael Jackson's mother Katherine broke down in court Friday recalling the day her son died, as she testified against tour promoters AEG Live whom she blames over his 2009 death.

Taking the stand 12 weeks into a civil trial, she also lashed out at critics who described her the star as a "freak," and said AEG Live should have done more to help the late singer, clearly sick in the weeks before he died.

Jackson accuses AEG Live of pushing her son too hard as he rehearsed in Los Angeles for a series of "This is It" comeback concerts in London, and negligently hiring medic Conrad Murray to look after him.

Murray was convicted of involuntary manslaughter in 2011 over the Jackson's death on June 25, 2009, from an

overdose of the surgical anesthetic propofol, administered to help the 50-year-old singer with chronic insomnia.

Jackson's 16-year-old son Prince testified last month that his exhausted father warned that AEG Live were going to "kill" him as he rehearsed for the marathon concert tour.

Katherine Jackson echoed this Friday, saying the tour promoters failed to properly supervise Murray and to respond to clear signs that her son was seriously ill in the weeks and days before his death.

"My son was sick... and they knew he was sick, and nobody said 'call the doctor'," she testified, adding that she didn't know who Murray was until after Jackson's death.

"That doctor was for his children, I didn't know who it was," she said, adding: "My son needed another doctor."

La Linda Department Store-where Aruba shops!



Calman and Anna Hochman

--Though Aruba has its share of designer brand stores and shopping malls, ask almost any islander where they shop, and they will likely tell you "La Linda." Spread out over several specialty stores on the Caya Betico Croes, La Linda was Aruba's first and foremost department stores, where, for decades, one could find anything and everything, and after more than 70 years, still can make that claim.

It is also a distinctly family operation, with the personal touch and supervision of the Hochmans, who take their reputation for stocking "the best quality for the best price" very se-

riously. It all started with Calman Hochman, a Jewish Polish immigrant who opened his first small shop with his Aruban wife Anna, carrying "a little bit of everything that anyone could need." This was before WWII, when the present head of the company, Jaime, hadn't even been born yet. Many of their sales help have also been with the store for over two decades, and "it is very much like family here," he admits. Their loyal patrons also look forward to being helped by shop girls who have become friends, knowing they will get great and honest service.

To this day, La Linda is particularly known for its huge fabrics and notions department, the first destination for many on an island where making your own clothes is still an everyday practice. Without question, the store offers the greatest diversity of selection in nearly every department, and they have now consolidated them all into one store; four floors containing a wealth of choices in clothing for men, women and children, house wares, bedding, sporting goods, luggage, shoes, jewelry, deco- rative items and more.

"The present store is a work in progress," asserts Jaime, as they continue to renovate and enlarge what had been only the men's store and warehouse in the past. Normally closed for a 2 hour lunch/siesta in the old island way, shoppers will soon find it open daily for the entire day, from 9:30 AM to 6:30 PM, as they are on Saturday's, with a bright, charming eatery installed on the top floor.

from all over the world, always with an eye towards quality. They pay particular attention to their Women's Department specializing in over-sized garments, stocking larger sizes exhibiting distinctive dash and style.

For travelers who have perhaps lost their luggage, they can offer a quick fix for all the family which won't break your budget, including some very stylish new suitcases.



Comfortable lounges for companions while shopping a vast selection



Unique, quality goods in all departments

La Linda is continually expanding their inventory, with their acquisitions department continually seeking out interesting, unique, and moderately priced goods

A visit to La Linda and perusal of their interesting collection will make anyone understand why it has remained successful all these decades, and is still Aruba's favorite place to shop!

Eat like a local at The Queen's restaurant at Palm Beach Plaza



Keshi Yena with plaintains, vegetables and pica

-- An elegant décor with a breezy terrace overlooking Palm Beach welcomes guests to Varella Innocencia's very popular restaurant showcasing authentic local cuisine:

The Queen's.

They may have moved from Oranjestad to hipper new digs in Palm Beach Plaza, but the food and prices are strictly native, which is what first won this charming

eatery their loyal clientele. Varella's mom, Luisa, is still in the kitchen, conjuring up the delicious dishes that have been in her family for generations, acknowledged on the menu with items such as "Carni Stoba di Mamachi"- "Grandma's Beef Stew," and their Arawak Steak, along with local delicacies like Keshi Yena -"Full Cheese." This is a tasty, filling stew of

chicken, with other ingredients that are handy that day, all incased in a thick skin of melted Gouda. It was very satisfying and particularly memorable paired with The Queen's garlic bread and very special Pica, a mix of chopped onions and the famous local hot pepper, Madame Janette. Not overly spicy, it lends that perfect bit of tang to this deliciously picturesque meal.

One of the distinctions of Aruban cuisine is incorporating unique indigenous ingredients such as in Wild Cucumber Stew and a particular light fish chowder accompanied by the local specialties pan bati (corn meal pancake) and funchi (the local version of polenta.)

Seafood main courses of Catch of the Day Aruban Style to shrimp and a mixed seafood platter with shrimp, fish, squid, scallops and mussels. Meat dishes such as BBQ Chicken and Ribs or



Varella, Luisa and the next generation of chef

Grilled Tenderloin, each including a choice of 2 side dishes; all quite yummy and bargain-priced to boot!

The Queen's is located on the second level of Palm Beach Plaza, tucked into a cozy corner at the front of the mall. If you have a mind to try the real deal in Aruban food, without a doubt, this is the way to truly eat like a local. **They are open from**

11:00 AM to 11:00 PM, daily, offering indoor and outdoor dining.

Tel. 5860606 and email: saus.arubancuisine@live.com.

from an extensive menu they also have daily specials made from whatever is in season and Mama Luisa is in the mood to prepare, so don't forget to ask about what isn't on the menu!

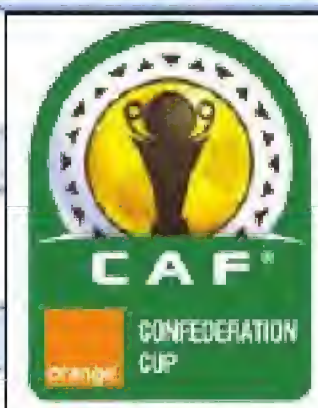
The second-tier CAF Confederation Cup boasts a first-class line-up this weekend as the group stage kicks off

- Orange CAF Confederation Cup 2013 -

Group A				Group B			
Day 1 – Date: 19, 20 & 21/07/ 2013							
St George (Ethiopia)	V	Stade Malien (Mali)		FUS (Morocco)	V	CAB (Tunisia)	
Rangers (Nigeria)	V	ESS (Tunisia)		ES Sétif (Algeria)	V	TP Mazembe (RDC)	
Day 2 – Date: 02, 03 & 04/08/ 2013							
Stade Malien (Mali)	V	Rangers (Nigeria)		CAB (Tunisia)	V	ES Sétif (Algeria)	
ESS (Tunisia)	V	St George (Ethiopia)		TP Mazembe (RDC)	V	FUS (Morocco)	
Day 3 – Date : 16, 17 & 18/08/ 2013							
St George (Ethiopia)	V	Rangers (Nigeria)		FUS (Morocco)	V	ES Sétif (Algeria)	
Stade Malien (Mali)	V	ESS (Tunisia)		CAB (Tunisia)	V	TP Mazembe (RDC)	
Day 4 – Date: 30, 31/08/13 & 01/09/ 2013							
Rangers (Nigeria)	V	St George (Ethiopia)		ES Sétif (Algeria)	V	FUS (Morocco)	
ESS (Tunisia)	V	Stade Malien (Mali)		TP Mazembe (RDC) /	V	CAB (Tunisia)	
Day 5 – Date: 13, 14 & 15/09/2013							
Stade Malien (Mali)	V	St George (Ethiopia)		CAB (Tunisia)	V	FUS (Morocco)	
ESS (Tunisia)	V	Rangers (Nigeria)		TP Mazembe (RDC)	V	ES Sétif (Algeria)	
Day 6 – Date: 20, 21 & 22/09/2013							
Rangers (Nigeria)	V	S. Malien (Mali)		ES Sétif (Algeria)	V	CAB (Tunisia)	
St George(Ethiopia)	V	ESS (Tunisia)		FUS (Morocco)	V	TP Mazembe (RDC)	
½ Final – first Leg – Date: 04, 05 & 06/10/2013				½ Final – Second Leg – Date: 18, 19 & 20/10/2013			
2 nd Groupe B	V	1 st Groupe A		1 st Groupe A	V	2 nd Groupe B	
2 nd Groupe A	V	1 st Groupe B		1 st Groupe B	V	2 nd Groupe A	
1 st Leg – final Date: 22, 23 & 24/11/2013				2 nd Leg – final Date: 29, 30/11/13 & 01/12/2013			
Win. 1 st A/2 nd B	V	Win. 1 st B/2 nd A		Win. 1 st B/2 nd A	V	Win. 1 st A/2 nd B	



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Costa at the double as Froome sights Tour triumph



LE GRAND BORNAND (AFP) - Portugal's Rui Costa claimed his second win of the 100th Tour de France on Friday as yellow jersey holder Chris Froome looked ahead to tasting overall victory in Paris.

Movistar rider Costa shot out of a chasing peloton on the fifth and final climb of the 204.5 km ride from Bourg d'Oisans to Le Grand Bornand to catch stage leader Europcar's Pierre Rolland.

The Portuguese, taking his second win and the third of his career following a victory in similar style on stage 16 to Gap, crossed the finish line 47secs ahead of German veteran Andreas Klöden (Ran-

dioShack).

Team Sky leader Froome came over the finish line just under nine minutes in arrears but with his 5min 11sec overall lead over Spanish rival Alberto Contador intact.

On the penultimate day in the mountains there was ample opportunity for Contador's Saxo team to try and claw back their deficit.

But as an early breakaway forged ahead of the main bunch, the Spaniard's challenge failed to materialise.

Saxo's accelerations helped drop several of Froome's teammates on the penultimate climb, but the Kenyan-born Briton ultimately crossed the

finish safely on the wheel of Australian teammate Richie Porte.

Contador virtually admitted his hopes of a third victory, after wins in 2007 and 2009, were over.

Ahead of today's final day in the Alps, the 125 km 19th stage from Annecy to the summit of Annecy-Semnoz, Froome looks virtually assured of succeeding compatriot and teammate Bradley Wiggins as the race champion.

Asked if he had anything left to aim for on Sunday, Contador said: "It all depends on the legs I have tomorrow, and how the race develops and what tactics we can employ."

With the 21.6 km climb to the Glandon summit beginning almost immediately, the attacks came thick and fast.

Canada's Ryder Hesjedal (Garmin) and Spaniard Izaguirre (Euskaltel) fought their way out of the peloton and forged ahead to open up a promising lead.

Rolland's aim was two-fold: to win the stage and to add points to his tally for the best climber's polka dot jersey, which he missed taking by one point at the finish.

NHL: League agrees to send players to Sochi Olympics

NEW YORK CITY (AFP) - National Hockey League players will compete at the Sochi Winter Olympics next February under a deal announced Friday by the league and its players union.

Some club owners had objected to sending talent to the Winter Games for a fifth time, citing possible injuries and the mid-season NHL shutdown as well as the inability to use television clips of their players from Olympic games.

But the NHL reached an agreement with the International Ice Hockey Federation that will ensure league talent will be allowed to compete February 12-23 in Russia, meaning more than 120 NHL players will suit up for their homelands.

Among those are expected to be Russian NHL stars Evgeni Malkin and Alex Ovechkin as well as Canada's Sidney Crosby, who netted the over-time winner for the 2010 Winter Olympic hosts in a victory over the United States in the gold-medal game.

Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper was quick to react on Twitter, saying, "I'm

pleased to hear that @NHL players will be competing in #Sochi. Like all Canadians I can't wait to see how Team Canada takes shape!"

Ovechkin, a standout winger for the Washington Capitals, had vowed to play for Russia in Sochi whether or not the NHL approved allowing players to take part in the Olympics.

The NHL will halt its regular season on February 9 and return after the Olympics on February 26.

Under terms of the agreement, seven NHL referees and six NHL linesmen will be used among the officials in the tournament. League officials are more accustomed to the speed and dynamics of the sport at the most elite level.



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NFL: Super Bowl chase begins as camps open

NEW YORK (AFP) - The Tampa Bay Buccaneers opened their National Football League 2013 pre-season training camp Wednesday -- workouts that kick off a gridiron journey which will culminate in next February's Super Bowl.

Only 50 days after the Bucs' rookies arrived at camp, the NFL season is slated to open with the defending Super Bowl champion Baltimore Ravens playing at Denver.

The reigning champions typically open at home but the Ravens were booked into a



road opener after Major League Baseball's Baltimore Orioles refused to move their home game at a ballpark adjacent to the Ravens' stadium.

The Buccaneers, who host their practice sessions at the team's Florida headquarters, announced that kicker Connor Barth will miss the entire season after surgery to repair a torn Achilles tendon.

Tampa Bay signed a one-year deal with Lawrence Tynes, who helped the New York Giants win two Super Bowls in six seasons with the club. Tynes has made 190 of 233 field goal kicks for the Giants and Kansas City in 129 career games.

The New Orleans Saints were set to follow by opening workouts on Thursday with the San Francisco 49ers and Cleveland Browns to open pre-season practice on Friday.

While newcomers, free agents and college draft choices will report in the opening days of workouts, it will be the Dallas Cowboys and Miami Dolphins who welcome the first veteran players to camp today.

That's because the Cowboys and Dolphins will meet in the first pre-season exhibition game on August 4, the Hall of Fame Game at Canton, Ohio.

The Buffalo Bills and Indianapolis Colts will be the last to see experienced players arrive, a full week later than Miami and Dallas on July 27.

Several questions linger over the upcoming NFL season, among them whether or not Adrian Peterson can set a one-season league rushing record. He finished eight yards shy of Eric Dickerson's record 2,105 yards.

The New England Patriots have enjoyed 10 consecutive 10-win seasons but at age 35, quarterback Tom Brady will be tested without favorite receiver Wes Welker, who signed with Denver, and Aaron Hernandez, who was released after being charged with murder. Tight end Rob Gronkowski is also questionable after back surgery.

New Orleans produced an NFL one-season record 7,474 yards two seasons ago but after a season marred by suspensions in the wake of a pay-to-injure scandal, the Saints allowed a record 7,042 yards.

And while the Ravens return quarterback Joe Flacco, who signed a \$120.6 million contract extension, Baltimore lost much of their championship roster to retirement or other teams. Replacing linebacker Ray Lewis, a defensive stalwart and team leader, will be difficult on and off the field.

Baseball: Cuban pitcher defects in USA

MIAMI (AFP) - Misael Silverio, a 24-year-old left-handed pitcher for Villa Clara, has defected from the Cuban national baseball team ahead of a series against US college players.

Silverio left the squad from the team's hotel on Tuesday ahead of Thursday's opener of the series in Des Moines, Iowa, and says he hopes to one day play Major League Baseball.

Silverio said he did not make the decision to defect without some heavy soul searching.

Silverio had a 1.90 earned-run average and kept opposing batters to a .245 average this season.

Two pitchers who defected

from Cuba played in Tuesday's Major League Baseball All-Star Game -- Cincinnati's Aroldis Chapman, who left the Communist island nation in 2009, and Miami's Jose Fernandez, who defected in 2008.

And Cuban-born Oakland A's outfielder Yoenis Cespedes, who defected in 2011, won the Home Run Derby title on Tuesday, the first slugger from his homeland to do so.

Los Angeles Dodgers outfielder Yasiel Puig, who signed a seven-year deal worth \$42 million last year after leaving Cuba, is batting .391 with eight home runs and 59 hits in 38 games.

Golf: Survivor Jimenez leads Open at halfway stage

GULLANE (AFP) - Spanish veteran Miguel Angel Jimenez leads the British Open by a stroke at the halfway stage, just seven months after breaking a leg in a skiing accident.

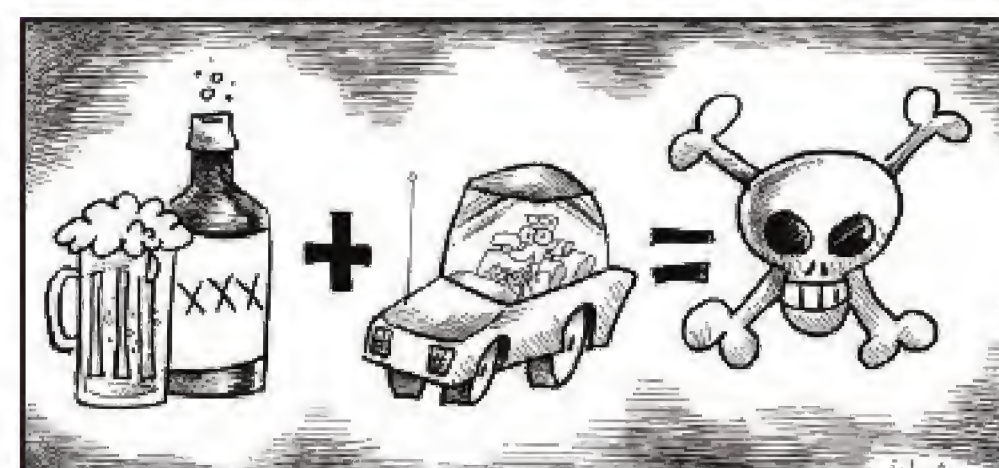
Many thought the leg break in December would spell the end of the colourful shot-maker's career, but he was back in action in April and is now in pole position to win his first major at the age of 49.

That would make him the oldest winner of a major in golf history, surpassing Julius Boros, who won the PGA Championship in 1963 at the age of 48.

Jimenez leads by one from a star-studded international chasing pack consisting of Tiger Woods, Lee Westwood, Dustin Johnson and Henrik Stenson.

Defending champion Ernie Els made it through to the weekend after a 74 left him on six over, and the man he edged out at Lytham last year, Adam Scott, also kept his hopes very much alive with a 72 to stand at one over.

Phil Mickelson is also still in the mix at one over, but he too struggled on the greens, unusually four-putting at the par-three 16th.



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Tennis: Williams eases into Swedish Open semi-finals

BASTAD (AFP) - World number one Serena Williams extended her unbeaten run on clay this season to 26 matches as she dismantled Spaniard Lourdes Dominguez 6-1, 6-1 and eased into the semi-finals of the Swedish Open on Friday.

The American 16-time Grand Slam winner will now play Czech Republic third seed Klara Zakopalova who had little trouble eliminating Dutch hope Richel Hogenkamp 6-2, 6-3.

Williams broke her opponent's serve three times in each set and was never in trouble on her way into the final four.

"My opponent today was playing really well, so I had to be patient and stay out there as long as I could," Williams said.

"I'm getting more used to the clay again. It feels a little better now. I want to play two more matches and win on the last day, but I have a really tough opponent coming up."

Williams leads Zakopalova in their head-to-head, 3-1, but while the American won their first two meetings handily during the 2003 season, they went 1-1 in their last two meetings during the 2009 clay court season, Zakopalova winning in the first round of Marbella and Williams winning in the first round of the French Open.

The second semi-final will pit home favourite Johanna Larsson against Italian Flavia Pennetta after both players won their quarter-final matches in straight sets.

The 24-year-old Larsson, who is looking for her first WTA singles' title, dropped just three games on the way to a 6-



1, 6-2 thrashing of Frenchwoman Mathilde Johansson.

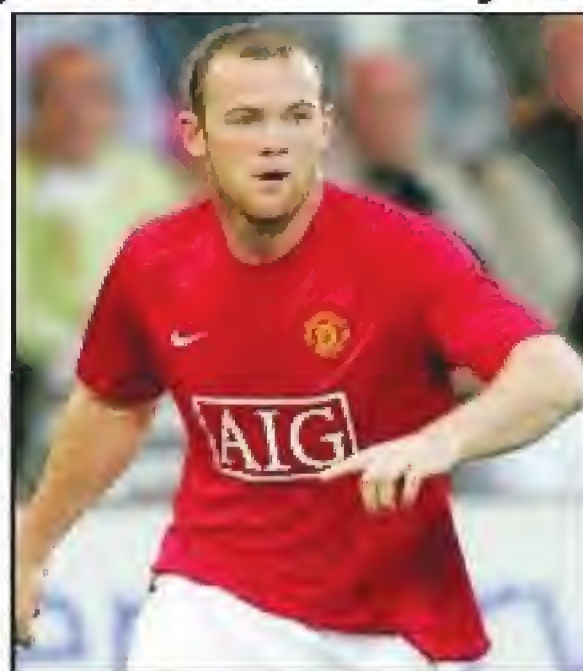
Pennetta who reached the fourth round at Wimbledon, and had a career high world ranking of 10 in 2009, also made short work of her French opponent with a 6-1, 6-3 victory over veteran Virginie Razzano.

The 31-year-old from Brindisi won the doubles titles in Sweden along with Gisela Dulko in 2009 and 2010 as she chases her first single's title at Bastad and 10th WTA victory.

Pennetta and Dulko also teamed up to win the Australian Open doubles' crown in 2011.

Mourinho makes World Cup warning after failed Rooney bid

KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) - Jose Mourinho on Thursday warned that players who aren't automatic picks for their clubs could miss out on the World Cup in Brazil next year. The Chelsea boss issued the warning just after Manchester United rejected a bid from the Blues for 27-year-old Wayne Rooney, who has been told by new manager David Moyes that Robin van Persie is the club's first-choice striker. Earlier some 100 fans gathered outside the team's hotel to welcome the players on their arrival from Bangkok. The Blues-adoring supporters held up a "Welcome" banner and yelled: "We love you Chelsea." Chelsea will play Malaysia's national selection on Sunday before heading to Jakarta. The England forward has two years left on his contract with Manchester United but has been pushing for a move. Dutch striker van Persie is seen as United's first choice striker. During the conference Mourinho said that with the World Cup a year away, a player picked regularly for his team would obviously stand a better chance of representing his country in the Brazil World Cup. Mourinho has previously stated that striker Rooney was Chelsea's only remaining summer transfer target for the club.



Football: Cancer-hit Vilanova quits as Barcelona coach



BARCELONA (AFP) - Cancer-stricken Barcelona coach Tito Vilanova quit on Friday to undergo further treatment for his illness, the president of the Spanish champions, Sandro Rosell, said.

The 44-year-old Vilanova had a tumour removed from a salivary gland in his throat in November 2011 and in December 2012 he suffered a relapse.

He underwent surgery again followed by 10 weeks of chemotherapy and radiotherapy in New York.

Vilanova returned to the helm of Barcelona in March and led the club to the Spanish league title.

Vilanova's replacement will be announced "probably in the beginning of next week," Rosell said.

Club officials met with the squad and the team decided they would not travel to Poland to face Lechia Gdansk in a pre-season friendly on today, he added.

Several Barcelona players, including Argentine forward Lionel Messi and veteran defender Carles Puyol, attended the press conference in their kits.

Vilanova, who was under contract with Barcelona until June 2014, took over from Pep Guardiola as manager in June 2012, having previously worked as his assistant.

Last week Guardiola, who now coaches German and European champions Bayern Munich, accused Barcelona officials of using Vilanova's illness "to damage" him.